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(7) Increasing the rate of injection of properly alkalinized arsphenamine greatly increases its toxicity.

(8) Properly alkalinized arsphenamine solutions in many cases are more highly toxic immediately after their preparation than after the lapse of about 20 minutes.

(9) Shaking alkaline aqueous solutions of arsphenamine and aqueous solutions of neoarsphenamine in the presence of air increases their toxicity markedly.

(10) Neoarsphenamine is a relatively unstable compound in sealed ampule and after an indefinite period may show changes in (1) color, (2) mobility in ampule, (3) solubility, (4) toxicity, and (5) odor.

(11) Difficultly or incompletely soluble preparations of neoarsphenamine may be highly toxic and should not be used clinically.

(12) In some cases neoarsphenamine in ampule may be rendered insoluble by incubation at 37° C. for about a year.

The above findings point out the importance of clearly distinguishing between what might be termed the "primary toxicity" of arsphenamine and allied compounds; that is, the toxicity as determined at laboratory examination, and the "secondary toxicity," or toxicity as influenced by such factors as the method of making the solution or the manner of administration.

In concluding, it should be borne in mind that the margin of safety between the therapeutic and lethal dose of arsphenamine, for example, is extremely narrow in man as compared with certain other potent agents, and that this extremely narrow margin of safety of itself makes it necessary to regard arsphenamine as a potentially dangerous therapeutic agent, even though every precaution is taken to handle it properly.

DIGEST OF COMMENTS ON THE PHARMACOPŒIA AND THE NATIONAL FORMULARY.

Review of Hygienic Laboratory Bulletin No. 129.

"Digest of Comments on the Pharmacopœia of the United States of America and on the National Formulary for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 1919," is the title of Bulletin No. 129 issued by the Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

This bulletin is the fifteenth number of the series of Digest of Comments and, like the preceding numbers, it embodies a more or less complete review of the literature for the current year dealing with the items included in the two official drug standards of the United States of America, namely, the Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary. In addition to abstracts bearing directly on these two official works, comments having an indirect interest have

also been included, i. e., the more important comments on food and drug laws, poison laws, narcotic laws, drug inspection work, drug and plant cultivation, chemotherapy, and foreign pharmacopœias.

In view of the variety of the subjects covered, this bulletin should be of value, not only to those interested in the revision of the Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary, but to pharmacists and physicians in general, manufacturers of, and dealers in chemicals and pharmaceutical products, drug and food inspectors, chemists, pharmacognocists, and public health officials.

PREVALENCE OF POLIOMYELITIS.

The following table gives the number of cases of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) reported to the Public Health Service by State health officers from May 29 to August 13, 1921, inclusive. These reports are preliminary and necessarily incomplete.

Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis).—Number of cases of poliomyelitis occurring in various States, as reported to the Public Health Service by the State health officers in weekly telegraphic or mail reports.

[States omitted are those from which no reports have been received or which have reported no poliomyelitis during the period covered. Leaders indicate that reports were received but no cases of poliomyelitis were reported.]

| State. | Week ended (1921)— | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | June. | | | | July. | | | | | Aug. | |
| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | 6 | 13 |
| Arkansas..... | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| California..... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | | 3 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 9 |
| Colorado..... | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Connecticut..... | | | | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| District of Columbia..... | | | | | | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | |
| Florida..... | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Georgia..... | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Illinois..... | | 2 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 24 | 39 | 38 | 27 |
| Indiana..... | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
| Iowa..... | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| Kansas..... | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Kentucky..... | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | (*) | |
| Louisiana..... | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Maine..... | | 3 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Maryland..... | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 10 |
| Massachusetts..... | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| Minnesota..... | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 101 | 81 | 48 |
| Mississippi..... | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Missouri..... | | | (*) | 6 | | (*) | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Montana..... | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Nebraska..... | | 1 | | | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 4 |
| New Jersey..... | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | (*) | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| New York..... | | | | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 24 | 27 |
| North Carolina..... | 1 | | 3 | | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Ohio..... | (*) | (*) | (*) | (*) | (*) | (*) | (*) | (*) | 27 | (*) | (*) |
| South Dakota..... | | | | | | | 3 | | | 2 | |
| Texas..... | | | | | | | | (*) | 3 | | |
| Vermont..... | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Virginia..... | | (*) | (*) | 1 | | (*) | 2 | 1 | 2 | (*) | (*) |
| West Virginia..... | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| Wisconsin..... | 2 | | | | 1 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 12 | 21 | 16 |

1 Exclusive of Denver.

2 No report received.

3 Exclusive of New York City.